

**St. Anthony Park Community Council
Environment Committee**

Minutes - 27 June 2018

A meeting of the Environment Committee of the St. Anthony Park Community Council was held Wednesday, 27 June 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the SAPCC offices

Members Present: Karlyn Eckman, Michael Russelle (chair), Stephen Mastey, Tim Wulling, Steve Yetter (minutes)
Members Absent: Betty Wheeler
Visitors: Andrew Fowler, Ev Hanson-Florin, Aaryn Wilson

I. Introduction, Review of Agenda & Previous Meeting Notes

Previous Meeting Notes (not “Minutes” as there was not a quorum)

- Notes approved by unanimous voice vote (thank you to Tim W for taking notes!)

II. Pesticide/Herbicide Use at CTC

- Andrew Fowler a CTC resident reviewed the pesticide spraying schedule for CTC including herbicides that are possible carcinogens (2-4-D) , Round Up and insecticides. There are many children at CTC who play on the sprayed surfaces.
- There is a Task Force for Reducing Chemical Use at CTC. It is facilitated by staff of CTC. Ultimately the group wants to engage Tom Ritzer of U of M landcare to change his dept’s practices at CTC. (Tom Ritzer, PLA, ASLA; Assistant Director Facilities Management - Landcare UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA; 612-624-8225; ritze001@umn.edu)
- CTC is a transient community of many international students. Language barriers and other factors make residents unlikely to be motivated to speak out about these pollution issues.
- Scott Alexander, Hydrology
- Sarita wetlands is a former lake. Under the current wetlands is a bed of impermeable clay. Pesticides that run off from CTC are likely accumulating at bottom.
- Non-point source pollution
- Andrew is asking that SAPCC Env Committee become more involved with this issue and that we reach out to this task force to help them assess the risk and lend our voice to encourage U of M Landcare to change their practices.
- We encouraged Andrew to reach out also to the Falcon Heights environment commission as most of CTC and all of Sarita are within the Falcon Heights municipal limits.
https://www.falconheights.org/?SEC=D78A3370-C310-4172-A179-5580230D675F&Type=B_BASIC
- There is CTC task force meeting scheduled in the near future but Andrew did not have the specifics. When we get that, SAPCC Env Committee will find a representative to send to that meeting.
- Michael encouraged Andrew to get from Landcare the application rates they are following for the various chemicals being used.

III. Update on Breck Woods

- Breck Woods constitutes 6 acres of undeveloped land owned by Luther Seminary just over the NW corner of St. Paul in Lauderdale.

- An effort is underway by neighbors to acquire the land from the Seminary with the intent of keeping it as is.
- Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been contacted by Cynthia Algren, a Lauderdale resident, to see if they could be a source of funds to buy the land. Cynthia is also considering forming a “Friends of Breck Woods” organization.
- The Lauderdale administrator has also been in contact to review their plans with them.
- Tom Fischer
- SAPCC is interested in keeping this wild as neighboring habitat for various local and migratory species included the endangered Rusty Patch Bumble Bee.
- More recently Luther Seminary has said they want to sell all 15 acres of land they own North of Hendon which includes Breck Woods. Luther is open to selling Breck Woods as part of that or as a separate parcel.
- Evelyn stated that the Elmer L Anderson Foundation was instrumental to the creation of the U of M Arboretum and may be an organization that would support keeping it wild.
- SAPCC wrote a letter to both Luther Seminary and Lauderdale outlining our concerns that has been impactful to the ongoing discussions about this land.
- Michael has spoken with the administrator for Ecumen about their potential interest in the land and the opportunity of keep
- Luther Seminary, Michael Morrow, CFO is preparing a communication to potential developers with Tanya Bell to outline what they would like to see in any proposals that will include mention of neighborhood stakeholders concerns about any proposed development. SAPCC developer guidelines have been recently updated and are available on our website.

IV. Noise from the Control Cabinet by the Water Tower

- Neighbors have complained that recently the noise from the control cabinet in the fenced in area has increased considerably.
- Kathryn Murray has contacted St. Paul Regional Water and has received an assurance that they will check it out.

V. Protecting Como Avenue Tree During the Road Construction Project

- Stephen Mastey reports that neighbors have been shocked by the number of trees already removed as part of the Como Avenue re-do and are especially concerned about the potential loss of a 125+ year old tree near the library.
- Zack from City of St. Paul Forestry has been in contact with Stephen; Zach understands the situation, and is working with the City Engineer to minimize the number of trees removed.

VI. Deliberate Democracy, LLC

- DeliberateDemocracy.com; Lynn Kolze, Principal
- Karlyn recommended to the committee this organization and its leader as a resource to help us better engage neighbors around community issues
- Steve made a motion that the committee recommend that The Board invite Lynn Kolze to an upcoming meeting for her to provide an overview of the services Deliberate Democracy might provide to SAPCC to help mobilize neighbors around community issues. Motion was discussed and passed unanimously.

VII. Grants

- Stephen Mastey worked with SAPCC to submit a MWMO Planning Grant request for better handling of stormwater near South St Anthony Rec. Though we have received grants like this in the past from MWMO this time we were immediately rejected because the planning area is

not within MWMO boundaries. Stephen is still arguing that the water ultimately ends up in MWMO's territory and should still be considered.

- Stephen continuing to investigate other grant opportunities including working with Udai from MWMO for a \$3,000 grant for Kasota Ponds shoreline, e.g. buckthorn removal, re-introduction of native plants, etc. Karlyn recommended the preservation of hardstem bullrush and sandbar willow in the West Pond by means of jersey barriers.

VI. Membership

- Discussed the need for outreach to renters in South St. Anthony Park as they are not represented at all on this committee.
- Agreed to conduct next month's meeting at Dual Citizen on the patio, weather permitting (Note to Kathryn: please send a notice to the larger apartment complexes about this meeting stating that this will be a less formal meeting and will focus on networking and general discussion of environmental topics.)

VII. Next meeting - Wednesday, 25 July 2018, 7-9 p.m. at Dual Citizen